

hear from small business people who tell me, I'm afraid to hire new workers because I think this national debt will end up bankrupting my business, not to mention my country.

The American people are saying to Washington, quit spending money we don't have.

So today, House Republicans will bring to the floor the Cut, Cap, and Balance plan. Cut Federal spending at least back to its 2008 levels. Who is going around saying government wasn't big enough before Barack Obama came here?

Cap it. Let's make sure government doesn't grow beyond our ability to pay for it.

And then balance. Small businesses, families, States, everyone has to balance their budget except for the Federal Government. Is there any mystery why we have \$14 trillion of debt? There is no other credible plan on the table that avoids default and solves the problem.

The Senate, 800 days, no budget. The President, he gives us a speech, not a plan. And the only thing he has put on the table is more job-killing tax increases on small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, that doesn't work. It is time for cut, cap, and balance.

MAKE AMERICANS DEBT FREE

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking this Congress to cut the true tax that is really crushing Americans, that is preventing real job growth and robbing our people of financial security. I am asking this Congress on certain loans to cut mortgages down to home values. For certain student loan borrowers, let's forgive those student loans.

This Congress is responsible for the American people in large part being in the debt that they are in. We deregulated many financial institutions that recklessly put the American people in debt. The one powerful way to restore our economy and create jobs is to make sure Americans personally are debt free.

HONORING MARINE CORPORAL KYLE SCHNEIDER

(Ms. BUERKLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to inform the House of Representatives that on June 30, 2011, Marine Corporal Kyle Schneider of Phoenix, New York, in Onondaga County was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Corporal Schneider was born in Syracuse and lived in Baldwinsville, New York, for most of his life. He was a graduate of Baker High School and at-

tended Onondaga Community College for a year before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 2008. Corporal Schneider is survived by his parents, Richard and Lorie Schneider; a brother, Kevin; and his fiancée, Theresa Lynn Dodge of West Columbia, Texas.

Corporal Schneider was a proud and valiant marine. But he was also a son, a brother, a grandson, a fiancée, friend, and comrade. He will be greatly missed, and no words will diminish the grief of those who knew and loved him. In his death, he has earned the thanks of a grateful Nation.

REJECT CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Wake up, America. We are going to be voting today on a bill that has never seen a committee hearing. It has never been the subject of a markup in any committee, and there are going to be no amendments to this bill. The Republicans are calling this their Cut, Cap, and Balance bill. But in reality, it is gut, gap, and handcuff.

Gut: There is no way to get to their numbers of deficit reduction without seriously gutting Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. No way.

Gap: Their policies are going to further widen the income gap between middle class Americans and the richest Americans by perpetuating a policy that has allowed that to exist for the last 10 years.

And handcuff: You would be speaking German, Japanese, or Russian if this balanced budget amendment was in effect during World War II and during the Cold War, because during World War II we had debt in this country that was 120 percent of our GDP, and in the dawn of the Cold War, it was 100 percent of our GDP.

That is why this bill doesn't make sense for America. I urge my colleagues to reject it.

ENACT CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote to enact a Cut, Cap, and Balance plan to put an end to the spending-driven debt that has crippled our economy.

There has been a lot of talk about getting our fiscal house in order. While some in Washington would like to simply fix up the front yard, today's proposal will give our fiscal house a new foundation and fundamentally reform the way that our government spends money. This plan incorporates real spending cuts today, places limits on Federal spending for coming years, and advances a balanced budget amendment to address our debt crisis and kick-start our economy.

The bottom line is that we have to reduce our spending and start living

within our means. This crisis is not just a problem for the future; it is hurting job creation today. We must focus on establishing an environment that will help create jobs. The Cut, Cap, and Balance plan does just that.

REJECT THE CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to address H.R. 2560, the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act.

House Republicans are bringing to the floor H.R. 2560, which is another attempt to enact the policies embedded in their budget resolution. However, this act is even more extreme because it mandates that the House and Senate approve a constitutional amendment imposing their political philosophy.

While House Democrats have pushed for a balanced approach to minimize the deficit, Republican Members have pushed forward with a plan to end Medicare in order to preserve tax breaks for special interests, Big Oil, and corporations that transport jobs abroad. Throughout the process of negotiations, House Democrats have focused on protecting Medicare, strengthening the middle class, and creating jobs. America's middle class and seniors will suffer the most as the GOP continues to stand in the way of a reasonable, balanced deficit reduction agreement.

The national unemployment rate is down to 9.1 percent; however, 8.8 million jobs were lost. So I ask that we reject this bill coming up.

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TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. NUGENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, 49 States do it. Counties do it. Cities do it. Now it's time for the Federal Government to do it—to pass a balanced budget amendment. It is about passing a balanced budget amendment and getting this Nation back on track to meet our obligations, our spending obligations, but also to match it with what we bring in and collect in taxes and revenues.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for a balanced budget amendment.

A PERVERSION OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, what is being talked about today in terms of